ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

BIGBEE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

YORK BAPTIST CHURCH.

YORK STATION, SUMTER COUNTY, ALA.

SEPTEMBER 8, 9 AND 10, 1882.

OFFICERS:

ELD. J. K. RYAN, - - - - MODERATOR, - - - Vantley Creek, Ala
ELD. J. D. COOK, - - - - - CLERK, - - - - - Pushmataha Ala.
DEACON I. C. BROWN, - - - TREASURER, - - - - Livingston, Ala.

The next Session of the Association will be held with Livingston Baptist Church, at Livingston, Ala., on Wednesday before the Second Sabbath in September, 1883.

SELMA, ALA.:
JOHN L. WEST & CO., PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS.
1882.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1—*Reading of Letters and Enrolling of Delegates.*

2—*Election of Officers.*

3—*Appointment of Committees on Preaching.*

4—*Admission of New Churches.*

5—*Correspondence from Other Bodies.*

6—*Invitation of Ministers to Seats.*

7—*Report of Standing Committees.*

8—*Appointment of Standing Committees—to Report at Next Session.*

9—*Report of Committees of Present Session.*

10—*Motions and Resolutions.*

11—*Miscellaneous Business.*

12—*Appointment of Time and Place for Next Session.*

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ORDAINED MINISTERS

OF THE

BIGBEE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

NAMES.	POST-OFFICE.	COUNTY.
H. R. AUTREY,	Livingston,	Sumter.
A. E. BEAVERS,	Cuba Station,	Sumter.
C. C. BLUDWORTH,	York Station,	Sumter.
J. D. COOK,	Pushmataha,	Choctaw.
F. A. FREEMAN,	Butler,	Choctaw.
W. F. POND,	Kinterbish,	Sumter.
J. K. RYAN,	Yantley Creek,	Choctaw.
A. R. SCARBOROUGH,	Livingston,	Sumter.
C. C. VAUGHAN,	Cuba Station,	Sumter.
J. E. WHITE,	Clinton,	Greene.
N. B. WILLIAMS,	Livingston,	Sumter.
T. B. WOODWARD,	Gaston,	Sumter.

LICENSED MINISTERS OF BIGBEE ASSOCIATION.

NAMES.	POST-OFFICE.	COUNTY.
L. L. BELSHER,	Butler,	Choctaw.
A. P. EVANS,	Rosser,	Sumter.

MINUTES.

The Thirtieth Annual Session of the Bigbee Baptist Association met with York Church at 11 a. m. on Friday before the second Sabbath in September, 1882.

The Introductory sermon was preached by J. D. Cook. Text, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us!"—1 John 3: 1.

The pastor of the church then extended a welcome to the delegates and visitors.

On motion, adjourned to 2½ p. m. Benediction by Eld. J. D. Cook.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

The Association was called to order at the appointed hour by the Moderator; then he read the 103 Psalm, and sang,

"I love thy kingdom, Lord."

Prayer by C. C. Vaughan.

After appropriate remarks by the Moderator in reference to God's blessings, &c., he called on Eld. N. B. Williams to offer a prayer of thanksgiving.

In response to the call for presentation by the Moderator, the letters from the churches were delivered and read by Brethren W P. Chambers and Z. M. Hoit.

Messengers from the churches were enrolled as follows:

Beulah—W. F. Pond, J. B. Pond and W. P. Chambers.

Center—Not represented.

Christian Valley—Ed Carroll, J. R. Larkin and S. J. Carroll.

Clinton—Letter. No messenger.

Concord—John R. Phillips, D. W. Brock and John B. Phillips.

Cuba—C. C. Vaughan, W. H. Lewis, J. A. Waddell, R. W. Shaw and B. F. Watson.

Entaw—J. E. White and C. A. Hopson.

Fellowship—B. F. Hart, Alex Armstrong, W. T. Simmons and Robert Simmons.

Friendship—Not represented.

Gainesville—N. B. Williams, Z. W. Woodruff and F. M. Hendon.

Hickory Hill—T. B. Woodward and F. M. Ward.

Hopewell, Sumter county—Jacob Spidel and Edward Arrington.

Hopewell, Choctaw county—Not represented.

Livingston—I. C. Brown, J. G. Harris, J. J. Altman, A. D. Fortner and P. B. Brown.

Mt. Hermon—J. J. Goodin, R. J. McGowin and B. F. Brown.

Mt. Moriah—J. B. Bunyard and A. C. Webb.

Mt. Sterling—J. B. Turner and W. I. Turnbow.

New Prospect—A. R. Scarborough, W. P. Brewer, H. B. Leitch and Z. M. Hoit.

Reholoth—J. D. Cook, Eddie McCall and J. W. Cook.

Siloam—Wm. Stallings, James Stallings, John H. McDonald, H. J. Sims and James T. Tate.

Stonewall—Not represented.

Sumterville—O. C. Thomas.

York—C. C. Bludworth, W. R. McGowen and R. P. Nobles.

Zion—J. K. Ryan and C. F. Rainor.

The Association then went into a permanent organization by the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted in the re-election of the former officers: J. K. Ryan, Moderator; J. D. Cook, Clerk; I. C. Brown, Treasurer.

Petitionary letters were called for, but none were presented.

Received correspondents as follows:

Bethel Association—Minute and John. W. Jones.

Bethlehem Association, Miss., and Editor of the *Southern Baptist*—A. Gressett.

Union Association—Nehemiah Cobb.

On motion, the following was adopted:

Association convene at 8½ a. m. and spend one-half an hour in devotional exercises; adjourn at 1 p. m. Re-assemble at 2½ p. m.; adjourn at 5 p. m. Convene at 7½ p. m., and adjourn at pleasure.

The reports on missions were made the special order for Saturday at 9 a. m.

The Moderator appointed the pastor and deacons of this church, and W. R. McGowin, C. P. Mills and R. P. Nobles as a Committee on Preaching.

The Moderator appointed the following special committees:

Finance—Edward Arrington, D. W. Brock and W. P. Brewer.

Correspondence—Eddie McCall, Z. M. Hoit and P. B. Brown.

Nominations—W. H. Lewis, W. P. Chambers and B. T. Hart.

The report on Indigent and Infirm Ministers was submitted and discussed by J. D. Cook. After a contribution of $15.45, it was adopted.

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.

In reference to this important enteprise, I have concluded to adopt the report made by Rev. J. M. Phillips at the last State Convention, which we think excellent. In that report Brother Phillips says:

"We are impressed with a profound sense of the importance of this work.

"The destitution of the aged and infirm Baptist ministers in our State, which in several instances is known to us to be distressing, touches our hearts, awakens our sympathies and enlist our feelings as no other object of benevolence does.

"Worn out by lives of unremitting effort in the service of God, and incapable, by reason of infirmity, of securing a support for themselves and families and with nothing laid up against this day of trial, they are appropriately the wards of the churches and upon us is laid the duty of providing for their wants.

"We lament that so little progress has been made in securing a fund sufficient to meet the demands of this class of destitution. We attribute this to two causes:

"1. It is the conviction of many of the brethren that this work appropriately belongs to the associations and churches and should not be undertaken by the Convention.

"2. There has been no definite plan submitted for carrying on the work.

"We have given much time and thought to the subject of Ministerial Relief, and after much investigation and painstaking effort to ascertain the best way of conducting the work, we give it as our deliberate conviction based upon reasons, that we trust will be obvious to all, that the Convention is the only body that can successfully prosecute it, and therefore we recommend that hereafter greater prominence shall be given to it by the Boards and agents of the Convention.

"We also recommend that a Committee consisting of three brethren, of which Bro. J. G. Harris shall be Chairman, be appointed to which this work shall be referred with instructions to prosecute it by such methods and means as may be deemed most efficient and practicable."

Respectfully submitted, JNO. G. HARRIS.

Adjourned to 7½ p. m. Prayer by A. Gressett.

FRIDAY NIGHT.

The Association re-assembled at the appointed hour, and opened by singing,

"There is a fountain filled with blood."

Prayer by A. R. Scarborough.

The report on Inter-associational Correspondence was submitted and discussed by N. B. Williams, J. G. Harris, Z. M. Hoit, A. R. Scarborough and J. D. Cook, then adopted.

INTER-ASSOCIATION CORRESPONDENCE.

The close of another associational year has brought us together, to devise such means as we may think best for the furtherance of the Master's cause. Providence has in many ways blessed our people and country. In reviewing the past twelve months, we see much for which to thank God. No epidemic has scourged our nation; no financial crisis has embarrassed our people; nor has war, or revolt, disturbed our friendly relations with the nations of the earth. For these blessings let God receive all the praise.

All along the line we witness a forward movement among our denomination. A higher standard in reference to an educated ministry is being erected. A higher standard in reference to morals is being made the subject of frequent discussion, and what has been regarded hitherto as no special wrong, is being denominated as sinful conduct. Among these we find dancing, attending theatres and circuses, public balls, horse-races and drinking saloons and card-playing for amusement. While such conduct as the engagement in these sports may not be sinful, *per se*, yet the tendency is to evil results, and the example is *dangerous*. A participation in them may not be a flagrant violation of God's law, yet we are assured of the fact that the result of such conduct will lead to an open violation of the tenets of the Christian religion and work great detriment to the Christian character.

Another encouraging feature among our denomination is, our people are becoming more and more imbued with the spirit of Missions. Associations that a few years ago, not only did not contribute, but were opposed to Missions, have wheeled into line and are coming gradually up to their duty in this enterprise. This is one of the many glorious results brought about by our State Mission work, showing that education will produce a higher Christian philanthropy, and that an intelligent investigation of this subject will dissipate all opposition and create in its stead a Christian liberality.

On examination of the reports made many years ago in the different associations of our State, on Sunday-schools, Missions and Ministerial Education, we find the same spirit characterizing them all that we find expressed in the reports of this day. Thus we are reminded that we are only carrying out the views and convictions of our fathers.

We have in this State about seventy associations, fifty-two white and the remainder colored. Selecting the most reliable estimate, we can find we have seventy-five thousand white members and about sixty thousand colored. And right here permit me to remark that there is a vast improvement being wrought in the intellectual and moral status of the colored ministry, and I am fully convinced, from further observation, that this improvement is, in a great measure, the result of the educational facilities for colored ministers in Alabama. There is a grasping, a longing after a higher culture among this people—a consciousness of the superiority of an educated mind. Hence, we remark that it is our Christian duty to encourage them in this matter and aid them all we can by our knowledge and our means.

One of the most pleasant and joyful references we are called upon to make in this report, is the final, amicable settlement of an old misunderstanding between the Union and Bigbee Associations. At the last meeting of the Union, final action was taken and brotherly love and harmony were restored, and our paternal relations re-established, for which let us thank God.

In many of the Associations, Sunday-school Conventions have been organized, which hold their meetings once or twice a year, and the proceedings published in the back part of the Minutes, but separate from the proceedings of the association. This is a movement in the right direction, and we are of the opinion that they will be productive of great good. Such meetings should receive the encouragement and hearty co-operation of all Christians, and every association would be benefited by such an organization within its bounds. We need more coming together of our Christian people; we need meetings of co-operation oftener, that we may know each other better and learn to love and appreciate each other more. I trust that this Association, when the report on Sunday-schools comes up for final action, will consider this matter and take action upon it.

From the reports coming in from all over the State, we are gratified to know that this has not been a fruitless year among our churches. Many precious revivals have been witnessed and many souls brought into the fold of God. National and domestic peace reigns in our country, and the future for both State and Church is bright and encouraging. Let us redouble our energies and reconsecrate ourselves to the work of the Master, so that when our probationary state is over, when we shall have accomplished our days here, we may say, as did the great Apostle of the Gentiles, "I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith."

JOHN G. HARRIS, Com.

The regular order of business was suspended, and received correspondents:

Corresponding Secretary of the State Mission Board—T. M. Bailey.

The following was offered by N. B. Williams, and adopted:

Resolved, That the Bigbee Association recommend the system of Inter-Associational correspondence, as a means of valuable information, to the Associations of the State.

Resolved, That it suggest to them to furnish the Clerks of every other Alabama Association, of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, and of the Southern Baptist Convention, together with the Corresponding Secretaries of the different Mission Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention, and of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, and the compiler of the Baptist Year Book, with minutes.

Resolved, That the action of this body, in this matter be published in the columns of THE ALABAMA BAPTIST.

Adjourned to 8:30, A. M., Saturday. Prayer by W. F. Pond.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Opened at the appointed time, and spent half an hour in devotional exercises.

The reports on missions, which were the special order for the hour, were postponed for half an hour.

The following committee was appointed to apportion the amounts which the Churches are requested to contribute during the ensuing Associational year: J. R. Larkin, C. A. Hopson, B. F. Watson, J. G. Harris and D. W. Brock.

Received correspondents:

President of Howard College—J. T. Murfee, LL.D.

The Committee on Preaching submitted their report, and, after discussion, it was re-committed.

The reports on State Missions, and Home and Foreign Missions, were submitted and discussed by N. B. Williams. The Moderator then requested A. R. Scarborough to lead in prayer, that our hearts may be near the heathen. A contribution was made for Foreign Missions, amounting to $7 85. Discussion resumed by J. D. Cook, J. G. Harris and T. M. Bailey. The reports were then adopted.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Your committee beg leave to report: The work of State Missions, in Alabama, has entered upon its eighth year. Its conduct, in the past, has been marked by a growing wisdom of plan, and by an energetic and prudent administration of its affairs. With a better knowledge of the wants of the field, and a richer experience in matters of detail, on the part of the Board and its Corresponding Secretary—together with a deepening conviction in behalf of State Missions on the part of the denomination,—we may reasonably expect the work steadily to advance.

The Seventh Annual Report of the Corresponding Secretary is full of good cheer. He says: "More missionaries have been employed, more destitute fields have been occupied, and more work has been done than during any preceding year since the present system of mission work was inaugurated. Including the Corresponding Secretary, forty-one men have been in the employ of the Board during the year, for the whole or a part of thier time. One hundred and thirty-two points, either of preaching or with weak churches, have been supplied by the missionaries of the Board, thirty-five of them embracing towns and villages and the remainder in country places. A majority of the missionaries have been laboring either to gather churches or build up weak ones, whilst a few have been doing evangelistic work." In connection with the labors of the missionaries of the Board the following are some of the results mentioned in the Secretary's report.

Churches constituted	12
Baptized	121
Baptized by others, in connection with the labors of missionaries	305
Received by letter	100
Restored	50
Sunday Schools organized	61
Ladies' Missionary Societies organized	4

Collections and expenditures for State work, $3,776 98. Besides this, $7,074 60, for various denominational interests, have passed through the hands of or have been reported to the State Mission Board.

But tabular statements are deceptive. Sometimes they exaggerate results; as often they but dimly outline what has really been done. That the State Mission Board has accomplished, through its various agencies, more than any column of figures would indicate, is plain. Eternity alone will show, what figures rather tend to conceal, the good done by it in our immediate sphere, together with the mighty stimulus it has exerted upon all departments of our denominational work. It has earned perpetuity. Even when—having filled the waste places of our State with gospel light—the time has come to write across its historic records, "It is finished,"—even *then* it will not die. It will live in the hearts and lives of those to whom it has made Christ precious; *live* in the churches it has revived and planted; the Sunday Schools and societies it has organized; the publications it has encouraged; the institutions of learning it has strengthened; *live!* in the influences which pervade the busy centres of our "Sunny South;" in the ministry to the Indians and Chinese, in our West; in the purer civilization which even now lifts its queenly head amid the religious puerilities of Mexico and Brazil; above the heathen eclecticism of China; the bestializing fetishism of the "Dark Continent," and in the "Gospel" which is "preached to those who are at Rome, also."

The State Mission Board proposes to enlarge its work during the present Conventional year, and asks from the State $12,000. This is a small amount, from so great a State, for so great a work. Of this the Bigbee Association is asked to furnish $300. To raise this the twenty-five churches of the Association must average $12 00 each, and the 1228 members of these churches must give nearly twenty-five cents per member.

Your committee recommend that the churches be urged to contribute the amount asked for, and in such a spirit of brotherly interest in the work as will strengthen the hands of those who have it in charge.

Respectfully submitted, N. B. WILLIAMS, Ch'n.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Leaving the State Mission work to be discussed by another committee, we address ourselves to the general missionary work of our denomination.

HOME MISSIONS.

At the Southern Baptist Convention, last May, the Home Mission Board was removed from Marion, Ala., to Atlanta, Ga. A new Board was appointed, which organized by electing John D. Stewart, President, and selecting Dr. I. T. Tichenor, of Alabama, as Corresponding Secretary. The new Board has surveyed the field, and, impressed with its vastness, and our imperative duty to cultivate it, has asked for a contribution of at least fifty thousand dollars.

From Secretary McIntosh's last report we obtain the following statistics: Forty-one persons have been employed by the Board during the last year, distributed as follows: In Alabama, 5 (including the Corresponding Secretary); in Arkansas, 2; in California, 2; in Florida, 13; in Georgia, 2; in Louisiana, 2; in Tennessee, 1; in Texas, 1; in Virginia, 1, and in the Indian Territory, 9. 3,754 sermons were preached; 119 persons were baptized; 214 received by letter, and 273 were baptized by others in connection with the labors of the missionaries. Total fellowship in churches supplied by board, 1,683. The Board reports 54 Sunday Schools, with 2,215 pupils, of whom 26 were converted during the year. Miles traveled by missionaries, 56,128, which will reach more than twice around the world. The Board received, last year, $28,370 08. It now has a permanent income of $9,400. The new Board desires to push the work, and our Association is asked to contribute $75 to that object. When we consider the importance of our interests in New Orleans, in Florida, and among the Indians, to say nothing of the Chinese Mission, in California, we surely will not disappoint the expectations of the Board.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Impressed with the magnitude of the work in foreign fields, your committee feel unable to say all that *ought* to be said, in a single report. When we reflect

upon the hundreds of millions of lost souls in heathen lands, hear their appeals for the words of eternal life, consider our ability to give them the gospel, and remember how little we are doing, we feel constrained to ask ourselves: Do we love the Lord Jesus? Do we believe His promise to be with his people in preaching the gospel to every creature? And does the "go" in the commission have no meaning for us?

As Baptists, we claim that the underlying principle of our faith is obedience to Christ. What are our professions worth, if we ignore the last and most important command of our risen Lord? We treasure up the last words of our dying friends, and make it a matter of conscience to carry out their last desires. Shall we turn a deaf ear to the last words of Him who loves us with a purer, deeper and more devoted love than a mother can feel for her helpless babe?

The Foreign Mission Board remains unchanged at Richmond, Virginia. Its receipts, from all sources, amounted to $62,231 61, last year. Very little of this amount is a permanent income. During the year 61 persons were employed by the Board, distributed as follows: In China, 16 Americans and 19 native assistants (our churches in China report a membership of 172); in Africa, 5 Americans and 3 native assistants, with a membership of 92; in Italy, 4 American and 10 Italian missionaries, with a membership of 175. In Brazil, 3 missionaries, with a membership of 42, and in Mexico 1 missionary, with a membership of 200. (Since Dr. Tupper's report was written, Brother W. D. Powell, Mrs. Powell, and her sister, Miss Mayberry, have been placed at Saltillo, Mexico.) Thus we have 981 saved souls in our foreign churches. If our Savior considered one soul as of more value than the whole world, we should consider ourselves immeasurably repaid had the outlay been a thousand fold more than it has been. Last May Secretary Tupper reported 129 baptisms during the year. Since our meeting, one year ago, ten new missionaries have gone out.

The Board has adopted, for its motto, "*Forward to the Center.*" It asks for larger contributions than ever before, and is desirous of removing the reproach, that "Southern Baptists are only playing at Missions." It needs *one hundred thousand dollars* for the year ending May 1st, 1883. Our State Mission Board has, in its annual address, requested the Baptists of Alabama to contribute $3,000 for Foreign Missions, and of this amount our Association is asked to raise $75. *Instead of* $75, *for Foreign Missions, the Bigbee Association ought to contribute* $500 *for that object.* Less than that amount will not clear our skirts. Our churches, last year, reported over eleven hundred members. Less than fifty cents per member will raise the desired sum, and the Bigbee Association will have proved to the world that it is composed of *Missionary* Baptists. Brethren, can't we do it?

There is inspiration in such figures as the following, which go to show that God is blessing *our* work as he is that of no other denomination in the world: For the years 1879 and 1880 the American Board had 416 missionaries and 567 native assistants, with a missionary membership of 17,163, and expended $627,-861 98. The Presbyterian Societies had 334 missionaries and 220 native assistants, a membership of 12,607, and expended $420,427. The Methodist Societies had 191 missionaries, 666 native assistants, 26,702 members, and expended $299,174, while the Baptist Boards had 162 missionaries, 1,052 native assistants, a membership of 85,308, and expended $274,961 96. Or, in other words, the other denominations had 941 missionaries, and the Baptists 162; they had 1,423 native preachers, and the Baptists 1,052; their membership was 56,474, and ours was 85,308. They expended $1,347,462, and we expended $274,961 96. There is a deep significance in this. God delights to honor those who honor Him.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

There is missionary ground in the bounds of the Bigbee Association. Contiguous to nearly every church represented here are little neighborhoods, with a school house, perhaps, but with no Sunday School. Let some good brother or

ister, from the nearest church, organize a Sunday School in such places. There is no purer mission work than may be done, and is done, in these little country Sunday Schools. Again, every year there are churches among us without a pastor; would it not be well for this body to consider how far these points are missionary ground, and to take steps to have them supplied by our local ministry, or otherwise, if deemed advisable?

WOMAN'S WORK.

Notwithstanding the importance of woman's work, we have only two societies reported as giving anything for missions. Whether the sisters in the other twenty-three churches are organized or not, we do not know. Let our pastors press the importance of organized effort, and in the near future a constant stream will go out from our midst, to swell the glad rivers of salvation.

Submitted in Christian love,

W. P. CHAMBERS, Ch'n.

The following resolution was offered and adopted, after the amounts below were contributed, in cash and pledges, to the object of the resolution:

Resolved, That the Bigbee Association take immediate steps to raise $100, as a permanent colportage fund.

W. H. Lewis	$5 00	Beulah Church	$5 00
Christian Valley	5 00	Clinton	5 00
Concord	5 00	Cuba	5 00
Eutaw	5 00	B. T. Hart, paid	5 00
Friendship	5 00	Gainesville	5 00
Hopewell, Sumter county	5 00	Livingston	5 00
Mt. Sterling, try	5 00	New Prospect	5 00
Rehoboth	5 00	Siloam	5 00
Sanderville S. S.	5 00	Zion	5 00
Hickory Hill	2 50	J. G. Harris	7 50

It was agreed that the above amount would be paid to the State Mission Board by the 1st of December, 1882.

Adjourned, after prayer by T. M. Bailey.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

Opened by singing "Jesus, Lover of My Soul." Prayer by C. C. Vaughan.

The following resolutions were offered, and, after amendment, adopted:

Resolved, 1st, That the clerks of the churches in this Association be requested to furnish a committee of three, named by the Moderator, with a condensed history of their respective churches, showing date of organization, by what presbytery organized, and what pastors they have had, and how long they have served; also, any other information of interest connected with them.

Resolved, 2d, That said committee will, from these reports, compile a detailed history of the churches of the Bigbee Association, to be published in the Minutes for the year 1883. Committee as follows: W. P. Chambers, I. C. Brown and B. F. Watson.

The report on Bible and Publication cause was submitted, and discussed by C. C. Vaughan, T. M. Bailey, A. Gressett and N. B. Williams, then adopted:

BIBLE AND PUBLICATION CAUSE.

We, your Committee on Bible and Publication Cause, beg leave to report the following:

First, we recommend, most earnestly, the circulation of the Scriptures and the reading of the same; in this way carrying out the injunction of the Blessed Savior: "Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life." That the Bible is the revelation of God to man, revealing to him his true condition, and God's method of saving grace, is a recognized fact among all Christians. Hence the importance of a widely circulated Biblical literature by colportage, and otherwise, in connection with the circulation of the Scriptures.

We would also recommend the circulation of good, religious newspapers, as a great means in the advancement of religious knowledge. We would, therefore, first of all, recommend THE ALABAMA BAPTIST, published in our own State, at Selma, as being especially adapted to the wants of the Baptists of the State; and, while we would not make any invidious distinctions, we would most heartily recommend The Southern Baptist, published at Meridian, Miss.; also, Ford's Christian Repository, and especially would we recommend Kind Words, for the Sabbath Schools.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

C. C. VAUGHAN, Chairman.

The report on Sabbath Schools was submitted, and on motion, was laid on the table until 7:30 P. M.

Col. Murfee was given an opportunity to present the claims of the Judson Institute and Howard College, which he did.

The Committee on Correspondence submitted their report which was adopted:

CORRESPONDENCE.

Your committee beg leave to report the followwling bodies of Baptists represented at this session, to wit: Bethel Association, Minute and Brother John W. Jones; Bethlehem, Miss., and Editor of the *Southern Baptist*, Elder A. Gressett; Union, Brother Nehemiah Cobb; Corresponding Secretary of the State Mission Board, Elder T. M. Bailey; President of Howard College, Col. J. T. Murfee, LL. D. In behalf of this Association we thank these brethren for their pesence and assistance.

We recommend that members of this body visiting other bodies of Baptists, be accepted as messengers to such bodies.

Respectfully submitted, ED McCALL, Chm'n.

The Committee on Nominations made their report, which was adopted as follows:

Your Committee on Nominations would respectfully suggest that we hold our next annual meeting with the Livingston Church, convening at 11 o'clock A. M., on Wednesday before the second Lord's Day in September, 1883. The Associational sermon to be preached by Elder Jno. E. White.

Respectfully submitted, W. H. LEWIS, Chm'n.

The committee to apportion the amounts each church is requested to raise for the different objects fostered by the Alabama Baptist State Mission Board, submitted their report, which was adopted:

AMOUNTS THE CHURCHES ARE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE.

Your Committee, appointed to apportion the amount asked for by the State Board, among the churches composing the Bigbee Association, beg leave to report and recommend to the churches the following amounts, to be raised by the next Association:

CHURCHES.	State Missions.	Home Mission.	Foreign Missions.	Ministerial Education.	Aged & Inf. Ministers.	Total.
Beulah	$ 6	2	10	1	1	20
Christian Valley	10	3	2	1	1	17
Clinton	12	4	3	1	1	21
Concord	12	4	3	1	2	22
Cuba	16	5	4	2	2	29
Demopolis	6	3	2	1	1	13
Eutaw	10	3	3	1	1	18
Fellowship	7	3	3	2	1	16
Friendship	7	3	3	2	1	16
Gainesville	35	4	3	2	2	46
Hickory Hill	9	2	1	1	1	14
Hopewell, Sumter county	9	2	2	2	1	16
Hopewell, Choctaw county	9	2	2	1	1	15
Livingston	15	4	3	2	2	56
Mt. Hermon	7	2	2	1	1	13
Mt. Moriah	5	2	2	1	1	11
Mt. Sterling	10	4	4	2	2	22
New Prospect	6	3	3	2	2	16
Rehoboth	18	3	3	2	1	27
Siloam	10	3	3	2	2	20
Stonewall	7	3	3	1	1	15
Sumterville	18	4	4	2	1	29
York	5	3	3	1	1	13
Zion	21	4	4	3	2	34
Total	$300	75	75	37	32	$519

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. LARKIN, Chairman.

The following brethren were appointed delegates to the Alabama Baptist State Convention to be held with Siloam Baptist Church, at Marion, Alabama, on Wednesday before the third Sabbath in July, 1883:

J. K. Ryan, J. E. White, A. R. Scarborough, W. H. Mewis, N. B. Williams, J. R. Larkin, C. D. Woodruff, W. P. Chambers, W. T. Simmons, D. W. Brock, J. B. Turner, W. F. Pond, J. G. Harris, L. C. Brown, Ed Carroll, Z. W. Woodruff, B. T. Hart, W. I. Turnbow, C. A. Hopson, G. W. Green, Jno. Sears, M. W. Hand, S. W. McAliley, N. M. Carpenter, J. D. Cook, T. B. Woodward, L. L. Belsher, F. A. Freeman, J. B. Pond, J. B. Phillips and Eddie McCall.

The Committee on Preaching reported as follows:

9 o'clock Sunday Morning, Sabbath School Mass Meeting. Opening address by Bro. J. G. Harris. 11 A. M., preaching by Elder J. E. White. 3 o'clock P. M., preaching by Elder N. B. Williams. 7:30 o'clock P. M., preaching by Elder J. K. Ryan.

Respectfully submitted, C. C. BLUDWORTH, Chm'n

The Treasurer was instructed to pay the several amounts received to the proper persons, taking their receipt for the same.

Closed to 7:30 P. M. Prayer by J. E. White.

SATURDAY NIGHT.

Opened by singing, "Jesus, I Love Thy Charming Name." Prayer by A. R. Scarborough.

The regular order of business was suspended, and the report on finance was submitted and adopted:

REPORT ON FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to submit the following report.

Amount received for State Missions			$184 10
"	"	" Home "	58 75
"	"	" Foreign "	59 35
"	"	" Ministerial Education	42 25
"	"	" Evangelization of Colored Race	4 00
"	"	" Indigent Ministers	7 00
"	"	" Colportage	12 50
"	"	" Rome Chapel	5 00
"	"	" Minutes	42 75
		Total	$415 70

Respectfully submitted, D. W. BROCK, Ch'n.

The following standing committees were appointed:

Inter-Associational Correspondence—J. G. Harris.
Sabbath Schools—A. E. Beavers, B. T. Hart and W. T. Simmons.
State Missions—I. C. Brown, Z. W. Woodruff, and T. M. Brunson.
Foreign Missions—Z. M. Hoit, D. W. Brock and W. I. Turnbow.
Ministerial Education—W. F. Pond, F. M. Ward and C. A. Hopson.
General Education—C. C. Bludworth, W. P. Brewer, and P. B. Brown.
Bible and Colportage Work—T. B. Woodward, W. H. Lewis and R. P. Nobles.
Indigent and Infirm Ministers—J. G. Harris.

The report on Sabbath Schools was taken from the table, reread, and discussed by W. F. Pond, W. P. Chambers, T. M. Bailey and J. G. Harris; then adopted:

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

It has been truthfully said that "it requires great wisdom and industry to advance a considerable estate, much art and contrivance and pains to raise a great and regular building; but the greatest and noblest work in the world, and an effect of the greatest prudence and care, is to rear and build up a man, and to form and fashion him to piety, and justice, and temperance, and all kind of honest and worthy action."

Brethren, I know of no better factor in this great work of rearing and fitting men, women and children for the greatest usefulness in the Master's Kingdom than that of Sabbath Schools.

In order that the best and greatest results may be secured it is highly important that the school should embrace the entire membership of the church. A number of reasons may be assigned for this, the chief of which are:

1. To secure good and competent officers and teachers.

2. By this method the children and community will be induced to join in the good work.

3. It will have a strong tendency to build all Christians up in the most holy faith.

4. God will honor the work by making it the instrument in his hands of bringing many precious souls to Christ.

If these propositions are acceded, and who will deny that they are true?

we would urge every church in this Association to organize and continue a Sunday School in its house of worship, and at other points, if it is practicable.

We beg leave to report Sabbath Schools in this Association 7, No. teachers and pupils, 349.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. D. COOK, Chm'n.

The report on Ministerial Education was submitted and discussed by J. J. Altman, J. E. White, T. M. Bailey, J. T. Murfee, W. T. Simmons and A. R. Scarborough; then adopted.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Your Committee on Ministerial Education, offer the following report: Next to spiritual agency, the grand prerequisite is mental training; and the mind grows and expands in proportion to the culture that it receives. Then academic training should be the basis of all professional pursuits. If we would elevate the standard of morals, we must have an educated brotherhood. Then we must educate together our ministry and our members. As all cannot go to High Schools, we must have an educated ministry that is competent to mold the thought and direct the energies of the masses to a higher standard of christian morals. This can only be done by those who have been taught and trained to think correctly themselves. Then to educate, is to lead out the powers of the mind, and so train the pupil to concentrate the mind on any subject until it is fully mastered.

We should strive to make our ministry men of liberal culture before they become Doctors of Divinity. Our preachers should be fixed in the faith, rooted and grounded in the truth while they are becoming scholars and scientists. We hold to the belief that a call to preach is a divine impression. Yet for one to teach and train correctly, he must first be taught. Then our High Schools are the proper places to train our young to become teachers of the grand doctrines of the cross.

Respectfully submitted, A. R. SCARBOROUGH, Chm'n.

The Treasurer submitted his report, which was adopted:

TREASURER'S REPORT

I. C. BROWN, Treasurer,

1881. In account with BIGBEE ASSOCIATION:

Sept. 10. To amount received of Finance Committee.....$ 455 78

Cr.

Sept. 10. By amount paid Rev. T. M. Bailey, Cor. Sec. by order of Association (cash and voucher).... 413 18

" amount paid Rev. J. D. Cook, Clerk..... 42 60 $ 455 78

Respectfully submitted, I. C. BROWN, Treasurer.

The following was offered and adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are hereby heartily tendered to the members of York Church, and to the citizens of the town, for the handsome manner in which they have entertained the messengers, while among them; and that we also thank our Methodist brethren for the use of their house of worship during the present session.

On motion, ordered that the Minutes of this Association be published by THE ALABAMA BAPTIST.

On motion, that the Clerk be allowed $15 00 for his services.

On motion, dispensed with the reading of the Minutes.

The following parting hymn was sung:

"Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the raging billows roll,
While the tempest still is high," etc.

During the singing the delegates and brethren extended to each other the parting hand, after which the closing prayer, by J. E. White. The Association then adjourned, to meet with the Livingston Baptist Church, on Wednesday before the second Sabbath in September, 1883, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

J. K. RYAN, Moderator.

J. D. COOK, Clerk.

SUNDAY, Sept. 10, 1882.

Preaching, according to the appointment of the committee, except that Eld. T. M. Bailey preached at 7:30 P. M., instead of Eld. J. K. Ryan. After services, at 11 o'clock, A. M., a collection was taken up, amounting to $12 00.

CONSTITUTION.

1. This body shall be known by the name of the "Bigbee Baptist Association."

2. The officers of this Association shall consist of a Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall be elected at each annual meeting, from its own body, and shall hold their office until their successors are elected.

3. The Moderator shall preside over the Association, and shall discharge the duties usually imposed upon officers presiding over deliberative bodies.

4. The Clerk shall keep a fair record of the proceedings of this Association, and shall attend to the printing and distributing of the Minutes.

5. The Treasurer shall perform the duties usually assigned to such officer, and shall report annually to the Association.

6. The Association shall hold its meetings at such time and place as it shall, from time to time, appoint.

7. Every church shall be entitled to two delegates, and, also, one for every twenty-five members exceeding twenty-five.

8. This Association disclaims all right of exercising authority over the internal regulations of churches, believing that within their own sphere they are accountable to God only.

9. This Constitution may be altered or amended by the concurrence of three-fourths of the members composing the Association.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

I. We believe in one living and true God; that in the Godhead are Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

II. We believe that the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the New Testament is the only rule of faith and practice.

III. We believe that the Church of God is composed of such persons as believe in Jesus Christ and have been baptized; that baptism consists in the immersion of the whole body in water; and that the Lord's Supper should be administered to church members only.

IV. We believe in the Doctrines of Grace taught by the United Baptists, viz: In the depravity of man; in the converting grace of God; in the resurrection of the dead; in the general judgment; in the eternal life of the righteous —in the everlasting punishment of the wicked.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. At each meeting of this Association, the Moderator shall take the chair, shall call the members to order, shall decide questions of order subject to an appeal, shall open and close the Association with prayer, shall appoint committees when not otherwise ordered, and shall pronounce the decisions of the Association.

2d. The names of members shall be called each day, and invitations to seats extended to ministering brethren.

3d. The members shall observe respect to officers and to each other, shall rise when addressing the Moderator, shall confine themselves to the questions, shall avoid personalities, shall not speak without leave more than once until every member shall have opportunity to speak, and shall sustain that bearing to each other which becomes gentlemen and Christians.

4th. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Moderator, and then shall be in possession of the Association; but may be withdrawn by the mover before amendment or decision

5th. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received, except to adjourn, to lay on the table, to amend or postpone; which motion shall have precedence in the order enumerated.

6th. All questions except those relating to the Constitution shall be decided by a majority. Any member voting with the majority, may move for a reconsideration on the day of decision. Members may not leave the Association without permission.

7th. When questions of order are not provided for in these rules, they shall be decided according to the rules and regulations governing legislative bodies generally.

8th. The Association shall have power to receive into its body and fellowship such churches as apply for admission; and shall also be empowered to withdraw its fellowship from any church or body of men walking disorderly, and supposed to be unworthy the fellowship of this Association.

CHURCHES, PASTORS, CLERKS, PREACHING.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTORS.	PASTORS' POSTOFFICES.	CLERKS.	CLERKS' POSTOFFICES.	DAYS OF PREACHING.
Beulah	Sumter	J. K. Ryan	Yantley Creek	W. P. Chambers	Kinterbish	4th Sab. and Sat. before.
Center	"					
Christian Valley	"	A. R. Scarborough	Livingson	Wm. Rushing	Coatopa	2d Sab. and Sat. before.
Clinton	Greene	J. E. White	Eutaw	S. W. McAliley	Clinton	3d " " " "
Concord	Choctaw	W. F. Pond	Kinterbish	J. R. Phillips	Yantley Creek	1st " " " "
Cuba	Sumter	W. F. Pond	Kinterbish	B. F. Watson	Cuba	3d " " " "
Demopolis	Marengo					
Eutaw	Greene	J. E. White	Eutaw	C. A. Hopson	Eutaw	2d Sab. and Sat before.
Fellowship	Marengo	A. R. Scarborough	Livingston	W. M. Simmons	Demopolis	3d " " " "
Friendship	Greene	J. E White	Eutaw			4th " " " "
Gainesville	Sumter	N. B. Williams	Gainesville	F. M. Hendon	Gainesville	2d and 3d Sabbath.
Hickory Hill	"	T. B. Woodward	Bevill's Store	J. P. Woolf	Bevill's Store	1st Sab. and Sat. before.
Hopewell	"	A. R. Scarborough	Livingston	C. S. Coats	Belmont	" " " "
Hopewell	Choctaw	W. F. Pond	Kinterbish	C. J. Williams	Mt. Sterling	4th " " " "
Livingston	Sumter	N. B. Williams	Gainesville	P. B. Brown	Livingston	1st " " " "
Mt. Hermon	"	Not Supplied		J. M. Swain	York Station	
Mt. Moriah	"	C. C. Bludworth	York Station	A. J. McElroy	Cuba Station	4th Sab. and Sat. before.
Mt. Sterling	Choctaw	J. D. Cook	Pushmataha	J. B. Turner	Mt Sterling	1st Sabbath.
New Prospect	Sumter	A. R. Scarborough	Livingston	Z. M. Hoit	Livingston	4th Sab. and Sat. before.
Rehoboth	Choctaw	J. D. Cook	Pushmataha	J. W. Cook	Pushmataha	2d and 4th Sabbath.
Siloam	Sumter	W. F. Pond	Kinterbish	S. D. Green	York Station	2d Sab. and Sat. before.
Stonewall	"					
Sumterville	"	N. B. Williams	Gainesville	O. C. Thomas	Sumterville	4th Sabbath.
York	"	C. C. Bludworth	York Station	C. P. Mills	York Station	3d Sab. and Sat. before.
Zion	"	J. K. Ryan	Yantley Creek	T. M. Brunson	Rosser	2d " " " "

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	Add. by Baptism	Add. by Letter	Add. by Restoration	Dim. by Death	Dim. by Letter	Dim. by Exclusion.	Total Membership.	Amount paid Pastor's Salary	S. S. Teachers	S. S. Scholars	S. S. Contributions.	Minutes	State Missions	Home Missions	Foreign Missions.	Ministerial Education.	Evangelization of Col. People.	Colportage	Coliseum Place Church, N. O.	Torre Pellice Chapel.	Rome Chapel	Indian Missions.	S. B. Theological Seminary.	Aged and Infirm Ministers.	TOTAL
Beulah	6	3	..	1	2	..	38	$ 80	4	40	$11 00	$ 3 00	$ 13 50	$ 1 00	$13 40	$ 1 00	$	$ 1 00	$	$	$	$	$	$	$ 32 90
*Center	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Christian Valley	..	..	..	..	..	..	47	.....	..	.....	.....	2 50	14 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16 50
Clinton	5	1	..	..	7	..	42	200	..	.....	.....	2 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 00
Concord	6	4	1	1	2	..	108	.....	..	.....	.....	3 00	10 00	3 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22 00
Cuba	24	7	..	2	2	..	122	.....	10	95	.....	3 25	10 00	4 00	5 00	4 00	1 00	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28 25
Demopolis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Eutaw	..	11	..	..	..	..	13	.....	..	.....	.....	1 00	2 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 00
Fellowship	..	..	..	..	1	..	37	.....	..	.....	.....	2 00	5 00	2 00	1 00	3 00	1 00	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15 00
Friendship	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gainesville	..	1	..	1	1	1	64	.....	..	40	10 25	1 50	40 46	7 15	7 15	..	..	50	1 50	2 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	70 86
Hickory Hill	..	3	1	1	1	..	37	.....	..	60	.....	1 80	5 75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 55
†Hopewell	..	..	..	1	..	..	50	.....	..	.....	.....	3 00	5 00	1 00	1 00	2 00	1 00	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14 00
*†Hopewell	..	..	..	..	..	..	63	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Livingston	..	2	..	..	..	..	53	.....	13	47	15 00	1 50	30 00	4 75	9 50	6 75	.....	1 50	.....	5 00	5 00	5 00	5 00	5 00	70 75
Mt. Hebron	..	..	..	..	2	..	40	.....	..	.....	.....	1 00	.....	.....	3 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 00
*†Mt. Moriah	..	1	..	1	..	6	58	.....	..	.....	.....	1 50	5 00	.....	.....	2 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	.....	1 00	11 50
Mt. Sterling	..	2	..	..	1	3	20	100	..	..	..	1 25	5 00	.....	3 80	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 55
New Prospect	..	2	..	1	..	..	51	.....	..	..	..	3 00	5 00	2 00	1 50	2 00	1 00	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14 50
Rehoboth	5	..	..	2	2	1	71	.....	..	.....	.....	3 00	9 50	2 00	9 00	4 00	.....	.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32 50
Siloam	..	3	..	4	3	4	97	.....	..	..	..	2 40	5 00	2 60	2 00	4 00	1 00	1 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17 00
*Stonewall	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	.....	..	..	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sumterville	..	..	..	..	1	..	23	.....	..	40	..	2 00	11 45	7 00	7 00	8 00	.....	.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40 45
York	3	7	..	..	1	..	25	100	..	.....	.....	2 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 00
Zion	..	..	..	1	4	..	102	.....	..	.....	.....	3 00	15 00	5 00	2 00	4 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29 00
Total 1882	25	50	46	3	15	32	16	1137	$480	27	322	$36 25	$42 70	$ 171 60	$40 90	$65 35	$43 25	$ 6 00	$ 9 50	$11 50	$ 7 50	$ 5 00	$ 6 00	$ 5 00	$ 6 00	$ 420 30
Total 1872	17	89	36	3	9	43	9	718	.....	.....	.....	.....	$66 25	.....	.....	6 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 00	7 50	.....	.....	87 25
Gain	8	..	10	..	6	..	7	389	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	$ 171 60	$40 90	$58 85	$43 25	$ 6 00	$ 9 50	$11 50	$ 7 50	.....	.....	$ 5 00	$ 6 00	$ 333 05

*Statistics taken from Minutes of 1881. †Sumter County. ‡Choctaw County.

NOTE—The Sunday Schools are credited with the full amounts of their contributions, but all that was donated for missionary purposes has also been incorporated with the amounts from their respective churches.

N. B. I have given the statistics of 1872, that we may see some of the progress that we have made in the last decade.